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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/881,728	06/18/2001	Yoichiro Tomari	1163-0341P	8265
2292	7590	12/13/2005		
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747				
			EXAMINER ALAUBAIDI, HAYTHIM J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2168	

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/881,728

Applicant(s)

TOMARI ET AL.

Examiner

Haythim J. Alaubaidi

Art Unit

2168

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is a Final Office Action in response to the Amendment of September 12, 2005.
2. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination following the amendment of September 12, 2005 of which Claims 1, 9, 13, 17 and 18 are Independent.
3. Claims 1-19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Priority

4. Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)–(d) is acknowledged, the Applicant was accorded the benefit of the earlier filing date of November 10, 1999.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-19, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Bryan I-chuen Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,553 and Lee hereinafter) in view of John R. Nicholson ("Sams Teach Yourself Outlook 98 in 24 Hours" Published in 1998 and

Nicholson hereinafter) and further in view of Youji Kawamoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,889,246 and Kawamoto hereinafter).

Regarding Claims 1, 9 and 13-19 Lee discloses:

an information history list display section for displaying communication history¹ (Figure 14, 35 and 36 and corresponding text) based on history related information (Figures 35 and 36 and corresponding text)² which is generated by outgoing or incoming communication (Figures 35 [outgoing] and 36 [incoming] and corresponding text) and indicates the answering state of the respective communication (Figure 36, Elements 3620 and 3610 and corresponding text; see also Figure 14, i.e. status; see also Col 5, Lines 49-56);

a server comprising: a personal information management section (address book with personal info) for transmitting, in response to a request, information to said information terminal (Col 17, Lines 24-38).

Lee's reference discloses all of the claimed subject matter set forth above, except it does not explicitly indicate answering state³ nor whether the answer has been completed or not, of the respective communication. However, Nicholson teaches

¹ Please note that the Examiner is interpreting the "communication history" to be the same as an "e-mail message". This is according to the Specification of the current application (see page 1, Lines 15-17).

² The "history related information" could be interpreted as the e-mails that were sent out the first time to inquire about the Christmas Party.

³ Please note that the Examiner is interpreting the "answering state" according to the Applicant's description in the Amendment of March 29, 2005 (Page 3, 2nd paragraph, 4th paragraph, page 4, lines 2-3 and page 5, Lines 3-4 wherein the "answering state" is the status (reply) of a communication (e-mail); in addition, the Specification of the current Application also indicate the meaning of the "state" as a reply to a message, please see the Specification of the current Application, Page 3, Lines 6-8.

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answering state (Page 143, Figure 7.4 inbox symbols, i.e. open envelop with a right-pointing arrow (forwarded message); and open envelop with a left-pointing arrow (replied to message) and whether the answer has been completed or not (Page 143, Figure 7.1, i.e. the envelope icons associated with the e-mails (communication) in the inbox.

Given the intended broad application of Lee's system, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Lee with the teachings of Nicholson to include this notoriously well-known feature in Microsoft Outlook (e-mail status in the inbox, i.e. unread, read, forwarded or replied ... etc.) as both Lee and Nicholson are describing communication for Microsoft Corporation; another obvious reason for adding such a feature would be to minimize the users time spent in searching for an e-mail status, to see whether the user did or didn't respond to the e-mail (communication); another reason is to increase the system flexibility by adding a well-known feature that would attract more users due to the increase in the level of the system friendliness (user friendly).

The combination of both Lee and Nicholson's references discloses all of the claimed subject matter set forth above, except for the new added limitation of "a plurality of different types of communications". However, Kawamoto discloses a plurality of different types of communications, please see (Col 13, Line 58 through Col 14, Line 8; see also Col 15, Lines 28-42; see also Figure No. 1, Element No. 23A-23C also

Elements 15, 25 and 33; see also Figure 13, Element No. GP1; see also Figure 15, Element No. 22; and Figure 17, Element No. AC).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the teachings of both Lee and Nicholson with the teachings of Kawamoto by indicating a plurality of communications type instead of just one type as in Lee's reference, displaying the a plurality of communication types will enhance the system efficiency by allowing the system to handle more then one communication type such as phone calls, e-mails and also faxes, this would also lead to an increase in the system's diversity as more customers and/or subscribers (system users) would be attracted to use such a system.

Regarding Claim 2, Lee discloses
a history management section for recording the communication history (Col 8, Lines 60-64);

and an information management table for recording the history related information (status) that indicates the answering state of the respective communication stored in said history management section (Col 5, Lines 57-64; see also Col 23, Lines 16-37).

Regarding Claim 3, Lee discloses wherein said information management table records relationships between the respective communication (e-mail) and said information history list display section (Col 5, Lines 57-64; see also Figure 14 and associated text).

Regarding Claim 4, Lee discloses plurality of different communication means (Figure 1, Element 12 and 13; see also Col 13, Line 49).

Regarding Claim 5, a personal address book for recording a personal name of a communication party (Figure 3, Element 335; see also Col 13, Line 52) and a communication address of the communication party (Col 13, Line 52); and an address book search section for searching said personal address book (Col 17, Lines 24-39) wherein said information history list display section displays the personal name in substitution for the communication address included in the history information stored in said history management section in accordance with a retrieval result from said personal address book by said address book search section (Figure 14 and corresponding text, i.e. the names of the names of the senders under the "From" column displays the personal name, such as, "Bob Winters" in substitution for the communication address (e-mail address)).

Regarding Claim 6, Lee discloses wherein the communication history (e-mails) and the history related information (status) are stored in a server (Col 9, Lines 8-10).

Regarding Claims 7 and 8, the limitations of these claims are similar in scope to the rejected claims 2 and 6, above. They are therefore rejected as set forth above.

Regarding Claims 10-12, Lee discloses:

a history management section for recording communication history (Col 8, Lines 60-64); and

an information management table for recording history related information which indicates the answering state of the respective communication stored in said history management section (Col 5, Lines 57-64; see also Col 23, Lines 16-37).

Regarding Claim 17, Lee discloses:

recording communication of respective communication (Col 8, Lines 60-64)

recording history related information and indicates an answering state of the respective communication (Col 5, Lines 57-64; see also Col 23, Lines 16-37)

and displaying the respective communication in connection with the answering state of the respective communication based on the history related information (Figure 14, i.e. status; see also Col 5, Lines 49-56).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed in the Amendment of September 12, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Applicant argues that Lee's reference does not teach or suggest the answering state of a communication. The Examiner however agrees with the Applicant's arguments. The Examiner clearly stated in rejecting Claims 1, 9 and

13-19 in both Office Actions dated June 6, 2005 and the current one that Lee does not teach the above limitation of the communication state. Instead, Nicholson's reference teaches answering state (Page 143, Figure 7.4 inbox symbols, i.e. open envelop with a right-pointing arrow (forwarded message); and open envelop with a left-pointing arrow (replied to message) and whether the answer has been completed or not (Page 143, Figure 7.1, i.e. the envelope icons associated with the e-mails (communication) in the inbox;

b. Applicant argues that neither Lee nor Nicholson's teaches the new added limitation of "a plurality of different types of communication". The Examiner however disagrees. Please refer to the new added reference of Kawamoto and the rejection of Claim 1 above.

Other Prior Art Made of Record

8. Pounds et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6560222) discloses a systems and methods for multiple voice and data communications using intelligently bridged TDM and packet buses and methods for performing telephony and data functions using the same.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Points of Contact

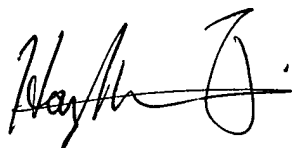
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haythim J. Alaubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached at (571) 272-446.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 or Faxed at
our central fax number (571) 273-8300.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to the Customer Service Window of the
Randolph Building at 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
Art Unit 2168

